

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of electronically transferring funds from a sender to a receiver, comprising:

a host system, operating on a conventional computer system and communicatively coupled to a host financial institution that is an automated clearinghouse (ACH) member at which is maintained a host account, receiving from the sender an amount of a funds transfer, a designation of a source account for the funds transfer, and a contact information of the receiver sufficient for contacting the receiver, without receiving from the sender a designation of a target account of the receiver;

the host system contacting the receiver using the information provided by the sender, and informing the receiver that the sender is capable of initiating a transfer of funds to the receiver;

the host system receiving from the receiver the designation of the target account for receiving the funds from the sender after the host system has contacted the receiver using the information provided by the sender; and

the host system providing a first instruction to the host financial institution to cause the transfer of funds from the source account to the host account; and

the host system providing a second instruction to the host financial institution to cause the transfer of funds from the host account to the target account;

wherein any of the first instruction and the second instruction effects through an ACH network a number of ACH entries to transfer funds;

wherein the sender is not required to have a previously established ACH originator relationship with an ACH member at which the receiver's target account is maintained [[,]]

~~wherein the receiver is not required to have a previously established ACH originator relationship with an ACH member at which the receiver's target account is maintained.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the designation of the source account includes a routing/transit number and an account number.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the designation of the target account includes a routing/transit number and an account number.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the amount of the funds transfer, the designation of the source account for the funds transfer, and the contact information of the receiver from the sender via a web site.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[5]], further comprising receiving the amount of the funds transfer, the designation of a source account for the funds transfer, and the contact information of the receiver from the sender with an interactive voice response unit.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the amount of the funds transfer, the designation of a source account for the funds transfer, and the contact information of the receiver from the sender by email.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the amount of the funds transfer, the designation of a source account for the funds transfer, and the contact information sufficient of the receiver from the sender by a message from a financial management application of the sender.
9. — 18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
including in an email to the receiver computer readable data for updating a financial management application of the receiver's with information describing the funds transfer.
20. — 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving from the sender bill identification information that identifies a bill received from the receiver; and
transmitting the bill identification information to the receiver to allow the receiver to credit the sender with payment of the bill for the amount of the funds transfer.

27. — 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising;

authenticating the sender by:

receiving from the sender a first account balance of the source account;
receiving from an automated system a second account balance of the source account;
comparing the first account balance with the second account balance; and
continuing the funds transfer if the first account balance and second account balance match.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

adjusting the first account balance with at least one current transaction occurring after the second account balance was last updated.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the automated system is the Automated Teller Machine system.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising;

authenticating the sender by:

receiving from the sender a check number and an amount for a check drawn on the source account;
providing the check number to an automated system to determine the amount of the check;

comparing the amount of the check received from the sender with the amount for the check received from an automated system to determine whether the amounts match; and
continuing the funds transfer if the check amounts match.

40. — 44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

authenticating the sender by:

receiving from the sender a user name and password for an personal online account of the sender;

attempting to access the sender's personal online account via an online system using the received user name and password; and

responsive to successfully accessing the sender's personal online account, continuing with the funds transfer.

46. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether there is sufficient funds in the source account to effect the funds transfer without overdrawing the account;

responsive to there being sufficient funds,

providing the instructions to the ACH member to effect the ACH entries.

47. — 64. (Cancelled)

65. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining that the receiver identified by the sender is the sender; and

automatically prompting the sender to provide a target account for the funds transfer.

66. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method of electronic funds transfer from a sender for paying bills from a business receiver, the method comprising:

a host system, operating on a conventional computer system and communicatively coupled to a host financial institution that is an automated clearinghouse (ACH) member at which is maintained a host account, receiving from the sender:

an amount of a funds transfer for paying a bill from the business receiver;

a designation of the sender's source account for the funds transfer; and
payment routing information including at least one of a designation of the
business account of the sender with the business receiver or bill
identification information of a bill;
the host system receiving from the business receiver the designation of the target
account for receiving the funds for payment of bills;
the host system electronically transmitting the source account designation of the
sender and the target account designation of the business receiver to the
host financial institution, providing a first instruction to the host financial
institution to effect a number of ACH entries to cause a plurality of funds
transfers from the source account of the sender to the host account, and
providing a second instruction to credit the amount of funds transfer to the
target account of the business receiver; and
the host system providing the business receiver with the payment routing
information of the sender and the amount of funds transfer by the sender
to allow the business receiver to credit the sender for the amount of the
funds transfer.

67. — 70. (Cancelled)

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method of electronic funds transfer from a sender for paying a bill from a business receiver, the method comprising:

a host system, operating on a conventional computer system and communicatively coupled to a host financial institution that is an automated clearinghouse (ACH) member at which is maintained a host account, receiving from the sender an amount of a funds transfer for paying the bill from the business receiver, a designation of the sender's source account for the funds transfer, an payment routing information including at least one of a designation of the business account

of the sender with the business receiver or bill identification information associated with the bill;

a host system providing the source account designation of the sender and a target account designation of a third party to the host financial institution and instructing the host financial institution to effect an ACH entry to debit the amount of the funds transfer from the sender's source account to the third party's target account;

the host system providing the business receiver with the amount of the funds transfer and the third party's financial account designation to allow the business receiver to effect an ACH entry to debit of the amount of funds transfer from the third party's financial account to a target account of the business receiver; and

the host system providing the business receiver with the payment routing information of the sender to allow the business receiver to credit the sender for payment of the bill in the amount of the funds transfer.

72. — 86. (Cancelled)

87. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method of processing payments for online purchases on the internet, the method comprising:

a host system, operating on a conventional computer system and communicatively coupled to a host financial institution that is an automated clearinghouse (ACH) member at which is maintained a host account, receiving via the internet from a seller a request to process a purchase by a purchaser;

the host system receiving via the internet from the purchaser a designation of a source account from which the purchase amount is to be transferred;

the host system receiving the amount of the purchase; and

the host system providing to the host financial institution the source account designation and designation of a target account of the seller for receiving the purchase amount, and instructing the to host financial institution effect a number of ACH entries to cause the transfer of the purchase amount from the source account of the purchaser to the host account of the seller and instructing the host financial institution to effect a number of ACH entries to cause the transfer of the purchase amount from the host account to account of seller.

88. (Original) The method of claim 87, further comprising:
receiving with the request from the seller a designation of the target account of the seller
for receiving an amount of the purchase.
89. – 101. (Cancelled)
102. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:
authenticating the sender by:
receiving a first amount from the sender regarding a financial transaction, wherein the
financial transaction is associated with the source account;
comparing the first amount with a second amount, wherein the second amount is
associated with the source account; and
authenticating the sender based on at least comparing the first amount with the second
amount.
103. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 66, further comprising:
authenticating the sender by:
receiving a first amount from the sender regarding a financial transaction, wherein the
financial transaction is associated with the source account;
comparing the first amount with a second amount, wherein the second amount is
associated with the source account; and
authenticating the sender based on at least comparing the first amount with the second
amount.
104. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 71, further comprising:
authenticating the sender by:
receiving a first amount from the sender regarding a financial transaction, wherein the
financial transaction is associated with the source account;
comparing the first amount with a second amount, wherein the second amount is
associated with the source account; and
authenticating the sender based on at least comparing the first amount with the second
amount.

105. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 87, further comprising:
- authenticating the sender by:
 - receiving a first amount from the sender regarding a financial transaction, wherein the financial transaction is associated with the source account;
 - comparing the first amount with a second amount, wherein the second amount is associated with the source account; and
 - authenticating the sender based on at least comparing the first amount with the second amount.
106. (Currently Amended) A method of authenticating a sender comprising:
- receiving a value identifying a source account from the sender;
 - ~~identifying a source account using at least the value;~~
 - receiving a first amount from the sender regarding a financial transaction, wherein the financial transaction is associated with the source account;
 - comparing the first amount with a second amount, wherein the second amount is associated with the source account; and
 - authenticating the sender based on at least comparing the first amount with the second amount.